AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5 at line 19 as follows:

The ~~rack~~ rod portion 22 has a generally cylindrical shape and an outer surface 24. A first annular groove 26 extends radially inward from the outer surface 24 of the rod portion 22 toward axis A. The groove 26 is defined by a first radially extending surface 28, a second radially extending surface 30, and an axially extending surface 32 that interconnects the first and second radially extending surfaces 28 and 30.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6 at line 3 as follows:

The rack 14 has a shaft 40 that extends longitudinally from the socket ~~14~~ 18 through a rack housing 44. The shaft 40 is connectable with another movable part of the steering or suspension system in a known manner. The rack housing 44 supports the shaft 40 for axial movement of the shaft 40 relative to the rack housing 44.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15 at line 16 as follows:

As shown in Fig. ~~4~~ 3, molded plastic tubing 226 exits continuously from the forward run 222 and is

passed to a cutter 234 which cuts the tubing into individual boot seals 50 of desired lengths.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15 at line 20 as follows:

Referring to Fig. 4, which is an enlarged, detailed section view of the corrugator 218 in the forward run 222 (Fig. 3), the track 224 of corrugator 218 (Fig. 4) comprises a pair of internal rails 242 and 244 that extend continuously around the inside of the corrugator 218. Carriage rollers 246 and 248 are received into the rails 242 and 244. The carriage rollers 246 and 248 are mounted on the ends of a shaft 250 that in turn supports mold block 252. Multiple mold blocks 252 are connected together in a continuous series around the corrugator, as shown in Fig. 3. The mold blocks 252 are each comprised of clam-shaped mold halves 254 and 256. In Fig. ~~3~~ 4, the mold halves 254 and 256 are in a closed position with the halves being brought together by the camming action of guide rollers 258 and 260 against cam surfaces 262 and 264.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16 at line 12 as follows:

Referring to Fig. 5, the corrugator 218 in the return run 226 (Fig. ~~5~~ 3), the clam-shaped mold halves 254 and 256 are pivoted apart, on pivot center 258 (Fig. 5), so that each mold block 252 is in an open position. In Fig. 5, the mold halves 254 and 256 are pivoted into the open position by cam

surfaces 262 and 264 acting on guide rollers 258 and 260.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 19 at line 13 as follows:

When the mold blocks 252 are fully closed, a vacuum is drawn in the mold cavity 272 through mold block inner wall 270 (Figs. 4 and 8) to expand the extruded plastic diametrically against the inner wall 270. The mold block halves 254 and 256 have a plurality of slits ~~285~~ 295 (Fig. 5) disposed in the grooves 287 (Fig. 5) of the corrugated inner walls 270 thereof. Each of the slits ~~285~~ 295 communicates with one of a plurality of bores 289. The bores 287 extend longitudinally through the mold halves 254 and 256 and communicate with a continuous circular vacuum header 290 (Fig. 6). The vacuum header 290 is, in turn, in communication with a vacuum manifold 292 (Fig. 4) which is maintained under vacuum. This communication is maintained for the entire lower run of the corrugator along which the mold blocks 252 are cammed to a closed position. The vacuum transmitted to the slits ~~285~~ 295 of the mold halves 254 and 256 expands the extruded tube of plastic outwardly against the mold block inner wall 182 and around the projections 282 and 286 to form a boot seal having the configuration as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 20 at line 10 as follows:

At the point of extrusion, the thermoplastic material is at an elevated temperature, dependent upon the plastic used, in order to make the thermoplastic material pliable and susceptible to molding. It is desirable to cool the thermoplastic material while it is in its expanded state. This is accomplished by means of air plenums ~~284~~ 289 (Fig. 5) which extend along the sides of the corrugator 218, for the full length of the forward run 222. The air plenums ~~254~~ 289 communicate with a source of pressurized air (not shown). The plenums ~~254~~ 289 lead to a pair of arcuate shields 296 which embrace the mold blocks 252 moving in the forward run, in a spaced relationship with the mold blocks 252, to define an annular air chamber ~~258~~ 298. Cooling air is introduced continuously into the annular air chamber 298 to cool the mold blocks 252.